



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846**

January 25, 2000

Mr. Tom Hannigan
Director
State Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Hannigan

Subject: CVPIA, Section 3406 (b)(2)

This letter continues my correspondence to you describing the planned use of Central Valley Project Improvement Act Section 3406(b)(2) water for fishery purposes in the Delta and upstream during the period January 1 to February 29, 2000. I will continue to advise all parties on (b)(2) fish actions on a weekly basis.

Based on a review of hydrology and the continued presence of juvenile outmigrant winter-run salmon (now in the 70-150 mm size range), and spring-run salmon yearlings in the Delta over the past four days, the Service has decided that the Central Valley Project (CVP) can immediately begin to operate the CVP export facility using (b)(2) water to the degree necessary to achieve a Delta export to inflow (E to I) ratio of no more than 35 percent (based on a 3-day running average). For example, when the 3-day running average for Delta inflow is greater than 32,000 cfs, the CVP could export approximately 4,200 cfs, while at or below 22,000 cfs inflow, the CVP would reduce exports to approximately 750 cfs. The CVP exports will be used to regulate to the 35 percent E to I ratio through January 31, 2000, unless hydrologic or fish abundance conditions change significantly; at which time I will notify you.

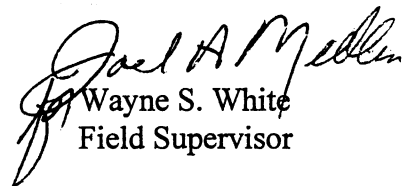
The above CVP export levels assume the DCC gates will remain closed through January 31, 2000 for the protection of juvenile salmon pursuant to the WQCP and the Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Protection Plan. Recent concerns regarding potential water quality problems in the Delta appear to be lessening considerably. The Service is also sensitive to the water supply concerns due to the low storage in San Luis Reservoir. We believe this approach of using the E to I ratio provides the opportunity to increase CVP exports commensurate with the increased Delta inflow and still attain approximately the same level of fish protection.

In the Stanislaus River and Clear Creek, we will continue to use (b)(2) water to the degree necessary to keep CVP reservoir releases at 325 cfs and 200 cfs respectively as described in the (b)(2) action plan provided to you on January 12. CVP reservoir releases for the Sacramento and American rivers are being increased this week for flood control purposes. We will review conditions on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, at the CALFED Operations Meeting, and Friday, January 28, 2000, during a No Name Group/DAT conference call.

Interior's accounting of (b)(2) water used since October 1, 1999, to January 24, 2000, indicates approximately 150,000 acre-feet has been used for Delta export reduction. The amount of (b)(2) water used for instream flow fish actions will be quantified and provided soon after January 31, 2000.

The contacts for our (b)(2) actions are either Roger Guinee of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at (916) 414-6535 or Marty Kjelson of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Estuary FRO at (209) 946-6400.

Sincerely


Wayne S. White
Field Supervisor

cc: Director, DWR
Director, CDFG
Director, NMFS
Data Assessment Team
No Name Group
B-2 Interagency Team